

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1887.

The Schools; The Real Question.

The Rev. Father Nardiello deserves credit for the manner in which he has presented the school question in these columns, from the Catholic standpoint. Without sectarian rancor he has endeavored to show the dangers of the present system of education, and as it appears to him the injustice done to those who do not choose to avail themselves of its privileges. His indictments against the system are three in number. 1. It is productive of infidelity. 2. It does not decrease, but rather increases crime. 3. It is unjust to tax those who do not enjoy its benefits.

Members of other religious organizations have no doubt read these articles of Father Nardiello with surprise. They are not aware of any infidel teaching. The schools are as much Christian as are our courts, legislatures, or State and national constitutions.

These rest upon the fundamental obligations of respect for the Creator of all, and his creatures; their life, property and happiness. So much is taught in common by all Christian organizations, is enforced by the laws of the land, and is distinctly taught in the Public Schools. The teaching of morals is thus divorced from the teaching of sectarianism. That infidelity is not the result of Public School teaching is well-known to all those who have enjoyed its privileges. The graduates of the Public Schools are as earnest and sincere Christians as are to be found, and the Public Schools have not interfered with their Methodism, Episcopalianism, or Catholicism. If the Sabbath does not give time sufficient to instill religious precepts in the mind of the child—the church is as liberty to supplement its instruction with daily exercises in public or at home.

Nor in the second place, can it be shown that the Public Schools increase crime. Arguments from statistics are always liable to error. Comparisons between country and city are certainly defective. Nor is it safe to argue that increase of crime in States where Public Schools have flourished is due to the Public Schools—not that statistics of 1860 or 1870 represent the schools of to-day. The free school law for Bloomfield was not passed until 1849 or 50, and it was many years before the schools reached their present efficiency. They were established to displace the defective sectarian and private schools of the day. The idea of general taxation for their support was combatted with vigor by their opponents. They were called pauper schools, but to no purpose. Against all opposition they grew in numbers and popular esteem, until to day they need no apology or defense. Their graduates fill high positions in church, State, and private business. If some have fallen into peculations, embezzlement, and disgrace, the high standing of the far larger number, show how well they are appreciated and trusted. No system of instruction, secular or religious, can assure the continuance of men in well doing, so long as they are free agents. It can but point out the better way, and leave mankind the free choice. The argument that education leads to crime is an absurdity, for then ignorance would necessarily be the highest good.

After all, the real question is one of taxation. Shall those who prefer to educate their children in sectarian schools be taxed for the support of Public Schools? To those who are thus taxed this is an apparent injustice. Yet it is only apparent. In other departments general taxation is not thought unfair. In cities a fire department is provided at public expense; yet he who is not satisfied with its care of his property, may provide a private fire company, but at his own cost; so of police; of roads, sidewalks, street lighting; and why not of schools? The Public Schools were first in the field; their privileges open to all. Whoever is not satisfied can open other schools, but at his own cost. To go back to sectarian schools is to go back to the state of things which existed before free schools were established, a very unsatisfactory condition. Under any private system, many children must go uneducated, to the moral and political injury of the State, and the financial loss of the community.

Patriotism and good government are upon the side of the Public Schools in the controversy. Side by side, boys have toiled at the same desk; rich and poor, Protestant and Catholic, until each has learned respect and sympathy for the other. Much of the good feeling which exists is due to these early experiences, whose silent influences are never forgotten. A free commingling of the many heterogeneous elements of the republic tends toward union, while separation tends directly to hostility and a clashing of interests.

Township Committee.

The Township Committee held their regular meeting on Wednesday evening. There was a full attendance of members. Mr. Edward Oakes was present in the interest of Mr. John Dougherty of Glen Ridge. Mr. Oakes desired to pay the amount of certain back taxes and secure an assignment from the township. There was a misunderstanding in regard to subsequent corrections. The matter was laid over until next meeting.

Bids for furnishing gravel to be spread on roads will be received by the committee until Monday the 10th inst.

The committee will make an inspection of the roadways on Monday the 10th inst., and determine where the gravel shall be used.

Township Engineer Reimer was on hand to ascertain what the committee had done with reference to Belleville avenue grading, and the M. & G. L. R. R. bridge over that street. Mr. Reimer was informed that the committee had taken no action in the above matter.

The presentation of a bill charged to the poor account and certified by Mr. Walker, elicited some comment, as considerable time has elapsed since that gentleman acted in the capacity of poor overseer.

Mrs. Flanagan's method of liquidating her indebtedness to the township was explained by Mr. Voorhees, and approved by the committee.

An order to the amount of \$300 was issued for road repairs.

The following bills were ordered paid: Police account—James Foster \$14; John V. S. 1st \$14; George W. Cadmus \$14; Robert Williams \$8.

Poor account—John Jaeger \$84; J. W. Baldwin & Bros. \$10; Dr. W. H. Van Gleason \$12; Township of Landis for board of Mrs. Boppel \$20; J. S. Cooper \$5.50; Mrs. John Flanagan \$6.

Miscellaneous—For hiring conveyances to take James Dwyer and James Payne to jail \$4; C. E. McDowell \$99.80; W. H. V. Reimer \$89.09; Bloomfield Publishing Co. \$31.

Essex County B. & L. Association.

The second fiscal year of the Essex County B. & L. Association closed on the 4th of October. The report of the treasurer shows an increase in loans over the previous year of \$7,032.50. There are 279 shareholders in the Association, who hold of the first series of stock 529 shares now worth \$26.65 per share—an increase of \$2.65 above the amount paid in. Of the second series there are on the books 214 shares, valued at \$19.90 each, \$4,268.60 having been paid in on each share. Of their third series, which has now been running six months, 723 shares have been taken, value of each share \$6.40.

The treasurer's report is as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
To Balance (Sept. 28, 1886),	\$1,968.46
" Dues	14,375.25
" Interest	955.67
" Premiums	562.18
" Fines	104.32
" Loans on Dues paid in	50.00
	\$18,016.68

DISBURSEMENTS.	
By Loans on Bond and Mortgage	\$13,480.00
" " " " " " " "	36.34
" Withdrawals	986.35
" Expense (permanent) Account	64.50
" " " " " " " "	17.90
" " " " " " " "	18.00
" Balance	3,419.33
	\$18,016.68

ASSETS.	
Loans on Bond and Mortgage	\$24,550.00
Delinquents' Dues	48.00
Interest Due	122.75
Fines	8.89
Expense Account (permanent)	123.98
Cash in Bank	3,419.33
	\$28,292.86

LIABILITIES.	
Due Borrowers	\$4,622.50
Advance Payments	45.00
529 Shares First Series of Stock	14,100.15
244 " " " "	4,876.99
723 " " " "	4,622.22
	\$28,292.86

Lodges and Societies.

—Members of Nonpareil Lodge K. of P. of New York, were the guests of Eureka Lodge on Tuesday night.

—The grand bazaar to be held in Newark under the auspices of the K. of P. Lodges of Essex County, is being actively pushed forward by the ladies interested in the order.

On Tuesday evening a large delegation of ladies went from Bloomfield to meet with the lady friends of Henry Clay Lodge of Newark. The meeting was held in the lodge room, and a pleasant evening was spent by the visitors and friends.

—The lady friends of Eureka Lodge K. of P. met on Wednesday evening at the residence of Mr. James Crisp on Bloomfield avenue. The meeting was intentionally a business one, but pleasure and business were combined in a harmonious manner.

—The Grand Lodge K. of H. met at Jersey City Heights on Wednesday. Excelsior Lodge of Bloomfield was represented by Lyman B. Clapper, John Jenkins and Thomas Monks. Acting P. G. D. J. Purcell Baker of Newark, was elected Grand Dictator, and G. J. G. Emmons B. Corby of Bloomfield, was elected Grand Chaplain.

State Items.

The Daft electrical motor at Asbury Park is said to be a success.

Vice-Chancellor Bird has decided that parties who sell real estate and promise to open avenues, must fulfill the agreements.

In the graveyard of Hill Top church, in the township of Mendham, stands an old-fashioned brown stone monument in perfect preservation, upon which is the following inscription: "William Blachly, died 30th Jan. 1791, aged 123 years, 3 months and 27 days."

Samuel Shanger, a young married man, of Franklin Furnace, was instantly killed, Wednesday by the accidental discharge of a gun. He was hunting and had just shot a gray squirrel, and while reloading the other barrel was discharged.

—A Montclair cook was seen testing the soup with her fingers the other day, and a vacancy in the kitchen occurred very soon thereafter.—Times.

The Assembly Nomination.

To the Editor:

As an independent voter, one who desires to see the best man put in, I offer a few suggestions pertinent to the approaching canvass for Assemblyman from this district.

The Prohibition party are already in the field, having nominated a very good man, a resident of this township, Mr. William Elkor. He is popular with the people of his section, and with a third-rate or obscure man nominated by the Republicans, from Belleville or Franklin, the chances would be pretty good for a Democrat to be elected to the Assembly from this district, this fall.

The Prohibitionists, of course, do not expect to get votes enough to elect their own candidate; their plan is to "whip the Republicans" if possible. Two years ago they nearly succeeded in doing so. Last year they were less successful, their candidate receiving a reduced vote. Now they resolve, "That it is hopeless to expect a reformation or a restriction of the liquor traffic through either the Democratic or Republican parties." That is certainly a very sensible resolution, amounting to a confession of helplessness on their part, since they cannot elect a candidate of their own, and if they desire temperance legislation, they are powerless to get it. Although they may succeed in electing Democrats, they would not think of asking temperance legislation from that quarter, and what can they decently ask or reasonably expect from the Republicans whom they are trying so hard to whip? So really they are a hopeless, an illogical party, an obstruction in the way of any temperance legislation we might have, and ought to have.

To remove this "obstruction" ought to be the study of good citizens. The Republican party of Bloomfield should unite harmoniously upon a nominee who will reduce the Prohibition vote to such a figure as will make it ridiculous for them to prolong the farce of again running a candidate for the Assembly, in this district. The gentleman who could best do this is our esteemed townsman and representative in the Board of Freeholders, Thomas McGowan. Should he be the candidate there would be no need of a Labor candidate. He would be a workingman's representative in the true sense, and a Christian gentleman, whom any man desiring clean government should be proud to vote for, and against whom any Prohibitionist ought to be ashamed to vote—that is, with the idea of whipping the Republicans by putting in a rum candidate. The Republicans of Bloomfield ought to be solid in their convention for the man I have named, and not repeat the folly of two years ago, when, by not being united, they came within a dozen votes of being defeated at the polls.

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